



## Biographies of Speakers

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### **Rick Miller, Deputy Superintendent for Policy Development and External Affairs, California Department of Education (CDE)**

Rick Miller develops policy recommendations on ways to improve student achievement in California, focusing on such areas as narrowing the achievement gap, identifying best practices, and developing strategies to better share solutions with practitioners. He also oversees the Office of Communications and is responsible for all CDE publications. Before coming to CDE, Miller worked at Microsoft Corporation developing communications strategies on privacy, security, and corporate image from 1999 to 2003. From 1997 to 1999, he served as a communications advisor to the Chancellor of California State University. He previously spent five years at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. where he served as press secretary to Richard W. Riley, Secretary of Education in the Clinton administration.

### **Panel Discussion: Deans of California Schools of Education**

**Harold Levine** received his Ph.D. from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. He became a professor in the Department of Education at UC Los Angeles in 1979. In August 2001, Levine became the founding dean of the new School of Education at UC Davis. As dean, he has overseen substantial growth in faculty, staff, students, and programs. This growth has helped the school to carry out its mandates to work with practitioners in public education, to translate research into effective practice, and to bring thought and research in other disciplines to help address some of the most difficult problems in education. In 2006, Levine was appointed as the Associate Provost for Education Initiatives at UC Office of the President.

**Mary Falvey** is Dean of the Charter College of Education at CSU Los Angeles, a position she has held since 2006. Falvey received her Ph.D. in Special Education from the University of Wisconsin. She began her career as a special education teacher and principal for the Marin County Office of Education. After earning her doctorate, she joined the faculty at CSU Los Angeles and currently serves as a Dean and Professor of Special Education. Falvey has published several dozen books and articles in the field of special education and has delivered over 300 papers to conferences in the past 25 years. She also has served as principal investigator or project consultant on grants totaling over \$1 million in federal funding, and has consulted with numerous school districts on systems change and full inclusion of students with disabilities in general education classes.

**Helen Easterling Williams, Ed.D.** is Dean of the School of Education at Azusa Pacific University. Before joining APU, she served as senior assistant dean of the University of Delaware College of Arts and Sciences (2003–06), where she established initiatives for recruiting and retaining faculty and students-of-color, monitored enrollment management, initiated the Women-in-Science Program, and served as liaison to the dean's office for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education accreditation process. Her professional experience includes roles in administration, teaching, counseling, and speech and language therapy. Williams was an American Council on Education Fellow in 2004–05, serving at the University of Maryland University College in Adelphi where she established the Office of Instructional Design and Development. She is an ordained local dean of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and presently serves as an associate pastor of First A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles.

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